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Guiding Principles Governing GCID's Support of CALFED's Proposed Actions in the Bay-Delta Program

MANAGER

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This paper outlines the principles that will guide GCID in its support of alternatives being proposed in the development of a long-term solution for the water supply and environmental problems of the Bay-Delta. The paper does not attempt to evaluate proposed alternatives *per se*, but instead addresses the major results that GCID believes are essential to the interests of its landowners and water users. The paper addresses individual components only insofar as they affect these major results. This paper is intended to be reviewed periodically in order to reflect changes in circumstances over time.

1. GCID will support a CALFED Bay-Delta Program which has as a goal and, in its implementation, protects and enhances important wetland and upland habitat in the Sacramento Valley. These lands include habitat maintained within five State and Federal wildlife refuges as well as the habitat created and maintained by numerous rice and other small grain farmers. GCID will support CALFED alternatives that will result in the preservation of farmland and agricultural production, and which provide for associated wildlife habitat. Alternatives which call for the purchase of farmland or fallowing of farmland are less desirable or unacceptable.
2. GCID will support a CALFED Bay-Delta Program which provides priority to programs of fish screening implementation on the upper Sacramento River, adequate financing and support for screening projects. The highest priority should be provided for diversions where the greatest opportunity exists to eliminate significant levels of entrainment.
3. GCID will support a CALFED Bay-Delta Program which seeks certainty from State and Federal regulatory agencies that they will abide by agreements and commitments made during the regulatory process. Water users should be protected from paying for significant modifications to a facility once it is operating, provided the facility complies with the regulatory mandates in place when facilities were constructed.
4. GCID will support a CALFED Bay-Delta Program which addresses the long-term need for adequate and reliable water supplies throughout the State. This support is contingent upon the following:

(a) Any alternative selected must be consistent with and honor California's system of priority water rights and reaffirm the State's commitments to laws and policies respecting areas of origin. GCID's senior water rights must be recognized.

(b) The State's long-term need for new water supplies should be addressed primarily through the development of new, environmentally sensitive, off-stream, locally controlled storage facilities located north of the Delta.

(c) CALFED's proposed alternatives for obtaining additional water supplies through more aggressive conservation practices in the Sacramento Valley should be rejected because they are unlikely to produce any significant results. Water which is not consumptively used is already being returned to surface water or groundwater sources from which it is rediverted and re-used.

5. GCID will support a CALFED Bay-Delta Program which provides for funding in substantially the same form as was approved in the context of SB 900.

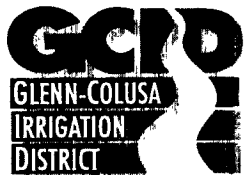
6. GCID will support a CALFED Bay-Delta Program which improves the current legal and regulatory framework. The current framework complicates and acts as an obstacle to voluntary, market-based water transfers.

Approved by the following vote of the Board of Directors at the board meeting held on the 18th day of July 1996:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Denn, Knight and Sutton

Noes: None

Absent: Director LaGrande



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JUN 30 1998



C-013217

C-013217